

cambridge recycling program:

why recycle?

Recycling saves resources and reduces greenhouse gas emissions! Last year, Cambridge residents recycled over 17,000,000 pounds of paper and containers.

This reduced over 8,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions equal to removing nearly 6,200 cars from the road. This incredible effort saved 159,888 trees and 25,239 barrels of oil.

tips on curbside recycling:

- Set recycling out by 7:00am on your collection day or as early as 3:00pm the day before.
- Collection is delayed one day during holiday weeks.
- “Close the loop” by buying products made from recycled material.

the drop off center:

The drop off center accepts a range of materials that are not accepted curbside, including: styrofoam, plastic bags, clothing, foam packaging, and fluorescent bulbs. [Proof of residency required upon request.](#)

The drop off center is open:

- Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:00pm - 7:30pm,
- Saturdays, 9:00am - 4:00pm

147 Hampshire St., Public Works Yard

recycling paper and cardboard:



what you can recycle:

- newspapers, magazines, phone books
- beverage containers and drink boxes
- all office paper (no blueprints)
- paperboard (cereal and shoe boxes, etc.)
- cardboard

how to prepare your recyclables:

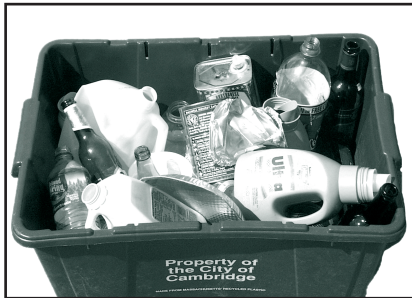
- place in **paper bags** (not plastic) or tie with a string:



- flatten cardboard and cut 3' x 3' or smaller. no pizza boxes.



recycling glass, metal, and plastics:



what you can recycle:

- aluminum pie plates, trays and foil
- aerosol cans (empty)
- glass containers (all colors)
- cans, including metal, tin, steel, and aluminum
- milk, water, and juice jugs
- stiff plastic containers

how to prepare these recyclables:

- **rinse out containers**
- place items loose in your bin, **no plastic bags**
- **remove lids and caps**, place **loose** in bin
- when possible, wipe out all oily or greasy containers with a cloth
- do not empty grease into drains

recycling yard waste:



what you can recycle:

- leaves, grass, and plants
- shrub prunings and twigs (thinner than your thumb and shorter than your arm)

how to prepare your yard waste:

- use **paper waste bags**, not plastic; or, face barrel with “yard waste” label toward street
- **do not include:** tree limbs, rocks, soil, food, or other trash.
- **do not** staple or tape bags

Yard waste is only collected spring to early winter.
Call 617.349.4879 or visit our Web site for exact dates.

curbside recycling does not include:

- no pizza boxes
- no plastic bags
- no styrofoam
- no broken glass
- no window glass
- no clothes hangers
- no dishes and glasses
- no ice cream cartons
- no light bulbs
- no paint cans
- no plant pots
- no pots and pans
- no plastic toys
- no pyrex

here's the wrong way to prepare recycling:



Containers should not be mixed with paper. No plastic bags or styrofoam. If your bin looks like this, it won't be collected.

www.cambridgema.gov/theworks

..... click on divisions, then recycling!

trash collection guidelines:

The City will not pick up: Construction waste (contractors are responsible for disposal), kitchen cabinets, fluorescent bulbs (see hazardous waste below), tires, sheetrock, pipes, soot, sawdust, bathtubs, floor sandings, furnaces, boilers, sinks, toilets, automobile parts, tree trunks or stumps, please call a private hauler.

Exception: The City will pick up one bundle of lumber, or three bundles of tree limbs (larger than your thumb) per week if tied in bundles no larger than 3 ft by 3 ft. Call hauler for larger amounts.

Donate reusable building materials **in good condition:**

- The Boston Restore, Inc.: 617.288.8400
- The Building Materials Resource Center: 617.442.8917, www.bostonbmmc.org (paint, lighting fixtures, sinks, etc.)

Household Hazardous Waste is not collected curbside. Bring these items to the City's four annual collections. Call 617.349.4005 or visit our Web site for dates and locations.

- Adhesives & Glues
- Automobile Tires (4 per household)
- Engine Degreaser, Brake & Transmission Fluid
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs (also accepted at Drop Off Center)
- Hobby & Art Supplies
- Household Cleaners & Spot Removers
- Non-Alkaline Batteries & Car Batteries
- Photo Chemicals & Chemistry Sets
- Oil Based & Latex Paints
- Poisons, Insecticides & Weed Killers
- Propane Cylinders (20lbs or less)
- Solvents & Varnishes
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Waste Fuels (kerosene, gasoline, antifreeze)
- Wood Preservatives & Fiberglass Resins

recycling motor oil:

Motor oil can be recycled by returning it to the point of purchase with your receipt. State law (MGL CH 21 S. 52A) requires retailers to accept it and recycle it at no cost to you. Oil generated **from residential use only** can also be brought to DPW (Monday through Friday, 8:30am- 5:00pm) or the Drop-Off Center (see inside for hours).

appliances, metal items, computers, and televisions:

Appliances and metal items require a sticker for recycling removal. These items include:

- Computers & TVs with a diagonal screen width greater than 20 inches
- Window Air Conditioners
- Freezers & Refrigerators
- Lawnmowers (gas must be removed)
- Dishwashers
- Metal Desks
- Stoves
- Water Heaters
- Metal Filing Cabinets
- Small Snowblowers
- Radiators
- Washers
- Dryers

Stickers can be purchased for \$15, (\$10 for seniors) at 147 Hampshire Street, Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:00pm.

Computers & Televisions:

Residents may put out one television or computer monitor per week, with diagonal screen length 20" or less (with hard drives, printers under 40 lbs. or less and/or keyboards) for recycling on their trash day. Call to schedule free pick up for printers over 40lbs, 617.349.4800. Larger monitors or televisions require a sticker for pick up. See info above.

donate unwanted items

Many non-profit organizations accept working computers and televisions, furniture, clothing and household items. The Recycling Division maintains an extensive list of donation and recycling outlets. Call the Recycling Division at 617.349.4843 or visit our Web site for more information.

contact us

Recycling Office	617.349.4879
Public Works	617.349.4800
24 Hour Recycling Info	617.349.4005
tty/tdd line	617.349.4805
web site:	www.cambridgema.gov/theworks



Printed on recycled paper with soy based inks.

**THE
WORKS**

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617.349.4800 • TTY 617.349.4805
www.cambridgema.gov/theworks
(Click on Divisions, then Recycling!)

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
**CAMBRIDGE, MA
PERMIT 58646**

ECRWSS

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS



cambridge recycling program

For general recycling questions,
call **617.349.4879** (TDD: 617.349.4805)

Kreyol, Portugues, Espanol, Chinese:
please call **617.349.4005**